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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,911	01/30/2004	Frederic Sgier	0573-1008	4613

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EXAMINER

SHAFFER, RICHARD R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3733

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,911

Applicant(s)

SGIER ET AL.

Examiner

Richard R. Shaffer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/21/04.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques (FR 2,801,492) in view of Vignaud, et al (US Patent 5,176,680) and in further view of Schlapfer, et al (US Patent 5,501,684).

Jacques discloses a vertebral arthrodesis device (**Figures 7 and 8**) with a pin (**5**), anchoring part (**6**), a cavity (**11**) to receive the pin (**5**), the head of the anchoring part with two lateral threaded holes (**15**), the cavity (**11**) snapping onto the pin (**5**) by perpendicular flexing (relative to the longitudinal axis of the arthrodesis device) of the supports (**10**), the flexion capable because of two inward pointing slots (**Figure 8**) in the head of the anchoring part (**6**), the head of the anchor part extending perpendicular to the top opening of the cavity, and tightening means (**4**) which overlaps the pin and clamps it down into the anchoring part with two lateral holes that correspond to the two in the anchoring part.

Jacques fails to disclose lateral undercuts to allow pivoting, a ring placed along the pin, and a cavity capable of securing the pin (spinal rod) with a ring about it. Vignaud, et al teaches a similar device with a bone-anchoring portion (**1**), a split ring (**9**) slidable along the length of the spinal rod (**6**), clamping means (**7, 8, and 18**), and lateral

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undercuts (Figure 1 and 3, the areas of parts **5** and **17**). The ring and lateral undercuts allow for pivoting of the spinal rod as shown in **Figure 2**. Schlapfer, et al teaches in **Figure 2** a sliding ring to allow pivoting of the screw in a bone fixation device longitudinal cuts none of which go through entirely, but initiate at alternating ends of the ring. This allows greater flexibility of the ring while maintaining integrity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Jacques with the teachings of Vignaud, et al and Schlapfer, et al to allow flexibility of the spinal rod maintaining integrity. In addition, if one were to modify Jacques device, dimensions and tolerances of the components would require correction. Thus, either the cavity would need to be larger if the same size of spinal rod utilized, or the spinal rod smaller which is also well within the skill of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard R. Shaffer whose telephone number is 571-272-8683. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5 (Mon-Fri, every other Fri off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Richard Shaffer

rrs

10/11/2005

David O. Reip
DAVID O. REIP
PRIMARY EXAMINER